AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

These claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application. The language being added is underlined ("___") and the language being deleted contains strikethrough ("~~@@@@~~").

1. (Currently Amended) A system for screening a real-time transport protocol route advertisement communicated between adjacent Internet telephony administrative domains prior to comparing ~~said~~ an advertised route to a ~~local~~ policy, comprising:

~~a transceiver;~~

~~software stored therein defining functions to be performed by said system; and~~

~~a processor configured by said software to perform the steps of;~~

a database server configured to store at least one policy, the at least one policy comprising attributes associated with one or more routes; and

a plurality of session routers in communication with the database server and configured to ~~determining if~~ determine a source of a real-time transport protocol route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~received by said transceiver is from an external source or an internal source~~;

~~if~~ when it is determined that a real-time transport protocol route advertisement received at a respective session router is from an Internet telephony administrative domain managed by another administrative entity than the administrative entity that manages the respective session router ~~said route information is from an external source~~, the session router is configured to perform ~~performing~~ a ~~first internal~~ destination screen of said route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein a destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement is compared to a ~~local~~ destination address ~~defined by said first internal screen~~, and

~~if~~ when it is determined that a real-time transport protocol route advertisement received at a respective session router is from the administrative entity that manages the respective session router ~~said route information is from an internal source~~, the session router is configured to perform ~~performing a second internal~~ an origin screen of said route information, wherein an origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement is compared to ~~a local~~ an origin address ~~defined by said second internal screen~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, ~~if~~ when said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, determining whether discarding~~ the respective session router determines which of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ destination address ~~defined by said first internal screen is a more specific destination address~~ contains the greatest number of characters, ~~if~~ when a portion of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said memory to perform the step of, keeping~~ the respective session router retains said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and ~~discarding~~ discards said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific destination address~~ contains a greater number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, storing~~ the respective session router stores said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to ~~a local~~ the at least one policy, ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific destination address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the format of said destination address ~~is conformed~~ conforms to at least one of E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, ~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses ~~or~~ and non-~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, storing~~ the respective session router stores said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy, ~~if~~ when said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not have said origin address.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~if~~ when said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, determining whether~~ the respective session router determines which of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address~~ contains the greatest number of characters, ~~if~~ when a portion of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, keeping~~ the respective session router retains said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and discarding said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address~~ contains a greatest number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, storing~~ the respective session router retains said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy, ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific origin address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, reading~~ the respective session router reads a received carrier attribute provided by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein said received carrier attribute describes a source of said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy, ~~if~~ when a received carrier name, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier name.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy, ~~if~~ when a received carrier days of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier days of availability.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy, ~~if~~ when a received carrier hours of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier hours of availability.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy, ~~if~~ when a received carrier time of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier time of availability.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding~~ the respective session router discards said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ at least one policy, ~~if~~ when a received carrier cost, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier cost.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the format of said origin address ~~is conformed~~ conforms to at least one of E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, ~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses, ~~or~~ and non-~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said route ~~information~~ advertisement is provided within a telephony routing over Internet protocol ~~(TRIP)~~ update message.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of screening a real-time transport protocol route advertisement prior to comparing said route advertisement to a ~~local~~ policy, comprising the steps of:

receiving a route ~~information~~ advertisement describing ~~said~~ a route from a first endpoint to a second endpoint at a session router;

determining ~~if~~ when said route ~~information~~ advertisement is received from an ~~external source~~ an Internet telephony administrative domain managed by another administrative entity than the administrative entity that manages the session router ~~or an internal source~~;

~~if~~ when said route ~~information~~ advertisement is from an Internet telephony administrative domain managed by another administrative entity ~~external source~~, performing a ~~first internal~~ destination screen of said route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein a destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement is compared to a ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen; and

~~if~~ when said route ~~information~~ advertisement is from the administrative entity that manages the session router ~~an internal source~~, performing ~~a second internal~~ an origin screen of said route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein an origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement is compared to ~~a local~~ an origin address defined by said ~~second internal~~ origin screen.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of comparing said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen further comprises the step of:

~~if~~ when said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of comparing said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, further comprises the steps of:

~~if~~ when a portion of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, determining ~~whether~~ which of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific destination address~~ contains the greatest number of characters.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific destination address~~ contains a greater number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, keeping said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and discarding said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific destination address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, storing said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the format of said destination address ~~is conformed~~ conforms to at least one of E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, ~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses, ~~or~~ and non-~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not have said origin address, storing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of comparing said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, further comprises the step of:

~~if~~ when said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of comparing said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, further comprises the steps of:

~~if~~ when a portion of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, determining ~~whether~~ which of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address~~ contains the greater number of characters.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address~~ contains a greater number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, keeping said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and discarding said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific origin address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, storing said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

reading a received carrier attribute provided by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein said received carrier attribute describes a source of said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when a received carrier name, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a local carrier name, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when a received carrier days of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier days of availability, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when a received carrier hours of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier hours of availability, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when a received carrier time of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier time of availability, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

~~if~~ when a received carrier cost, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier cost, discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for screening real-time transport protocol ~~routes~~ route advertisements prior to comparing said routes to a ~~local~~ policy, comprising:

means for receiving a route ~~information~~ advertisement describing a route ~~from a first endpoint to a second endpoint~~ that traverses one or more Internet telephony administrative domains;

means for ~~determining if said route information is received from an external source or an internal source~~ identifying a managing entity that controls an originating device and a managing entity that controls a destination device defined by the route advertisement, which is logically connected to said means for receiving;

means for performing a ~~first internal~~ destination screen of said route ~~information~~ advertisement, which is configured to compare a destination address defined by received route ~~information~~ advertisement to a ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen, which is logically connected to said means for receiving and said means for ~~determining~~ identifying; and

means for performing ~~a second internal~~ an origin screen of said route ~~information~~ advertisement, which is configured to compare an origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to ~~a local~~ an origin address defined by said ~~second internal~~ origin screen, which is logically connected to said means for receiving, said means for ~~determining~~ identifying, and said means for performing.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for discarding said route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~if~~ when said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for determining ~~whether~~ which of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific destination address if~~ contains a greater number of characters when a portion of said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, further comprising a means for keeping said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and discarding said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific destination address~~ contains a greater number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, further comprising a means for storing said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ destination address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific destination address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said destination address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the format of said destination address conforms to at least one of E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, ~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses, ~~or~~ and non-~~SIP~~ session initiation protocol telephone addresses.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for storing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not have said origin address.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~if~~ when said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement does not match said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for determining ~~whether~~ which of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~or~~ and said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address if~~ contains a greater number of characters when a portion of said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement matches a portion of said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, further comprising a means for keeping said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen and discarding said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a more specific origin address~~ contains a greater number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, further comprising a means for storing said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement for future comparison to a ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when said ~~local~~ origin address defined by said ~~first internal~~ destination screen ~~is a less specific origin address~~ contains a lesser number of characters than said origin address defined by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, further comprising a means for reading a received carrier attribute provided by said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, wherein said received carrier attribute describes a source of said received route ~~information~~ advertisement, prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising a first means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when a received carrier name, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier name.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising a second means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when a received carrier days of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier days of availability.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising a third means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when a received carrier hours of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier hours of availability.

52. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising a fourth means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when a received carrier time of availability, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier time of availability.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48, further comprising a fifth means for discarding said received route ~~information~~ advertisement prior to comparing said received route ~~information~~ advertisement to said ~~local~~ policy ~~if~~ when a received carrier cost, defined by said received carrier attribute, does not match a ~~local~~ carrier cost.